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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-13 OMB-01 /068 W
---------- 005949
O 031354Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6283

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5176

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF THE REALM ENDS ITS DELIBERATIONS

1. THE COUNCIL OF THE REALM MET LAST NIGHT FOR THREE HOURS AND ADJOURNED, ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES, WITHOUT GETTING DOWN TO VOTING ON THE PANEL OF THREE CANDIDATES FROM WHOM THE KING IS TO CHOOSE THE NEW SPANISH PRIME MINISTER. THIS MORNING IT MET AGINS FROM 1030 AM UNTIL SHORTLY AFTER TWO IN THE AFTERNOON, WHEN COUNCIL PRESIDENT FERNANDES MIRANDA ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE REALM HAD PRODUCTED WHAT THE KING HAD ASKED FOR. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD TELEPHONE THE RESULTS TO THE KING, AND THE KING'S DECISION ON THE NEW PRIME MINISTER IS EXPECTED FAIRLY SHORTLY.

2. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE COUNCIL WAS NOT GIVEN ANY INDICATION LAST NIGHT AS TO THE PREFERENCES OF THE KING FOR A PERSON OR PERSONS ON THE PANEL OF THREE. BUT FOR THE RECORD, ONE OF FRAGA'S CHIEF LIEUTENANTS TOLD US THIS MORNING THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT THAT FRAGA WOULD BE CHOSEN, AND THERE MIGHT BE A "SURPRISE" CHOICE. AT ALL EVENTS, HE SAID, FRAGA AIMED AT THE LONGER TERM, AND THIS PRIME MINISTER'S JOB WOULD BE TO PUT IN PLACE THE REFORMS, AFTER WHICH THE PATTERN OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS WOULD DETERMINE NATIONAL LEADER-
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SHIP. AREILZA INDICATED TO ME THAT HE WAS WAITING FOR

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THE RESULTS, BUT NOT MAKING ANY INQUIRIES FOR OBVIOUS
REASONS. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT THE MILI-
TARY HAVE EXPRESSED A RELUCTANCE TO HAVE ONE OF THEIR OWN
BE PRIME MINISTER, MAKING THIS A LESS LIKELY POSSIBILITY.

3. SILVA MUNOZ, TRYING TO CONCEAL HIS HOPES, TOLD ME THE
MOST LIKELY POSSIBILITIES WERE AREILZA OR ADOLFO SUAREZ,
GIVEN MILITARY RELUCTANCE. FAILING THE APPEARANCE OF ONE
OF THEM ON THE PANEL, HE FELT HE HAD A POSSIBILITY. HIS
TENTATIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW HE WOULD COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS
FACING THE NEW PRIME MINISTER DID NOT INSPIRE PARTICULAR
CONFIDENCE.
STABLER

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